

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 30, 2007

CITY COUNCIL SELECTS FOUR FOR CIVIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

New Community Inclusion category added

Medicine Hat – Three Medicine Hat residents and one organization are being recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

The awards recognize individuals who enhance the quality of life in Medicine Hat by their dedication, activities, and/or accomplishments in the areas of culture, environment, humanitarianism, sports/recreation, and others as deemed appropriate by City Council.

Evan Tonin was recognized in the Cultural category for her dedication and commitment to music and theatre for the past 60 years.

Rob Gardner was selected in the Environmental category for his passion for the enjoyment and conservation of the natural environment in Medicine Hat.

Evelyn Stall was chosen in the Humanitarian category for her vast number of volunteer endeavours, including her extraordinary commitment to the establishment of the Volunteer Centre.

The **Medicine Hat Family YMCA** was chosen in a new Community Inclusion category for its **Living Fit Program**. The Community Inclusion category was added this year to recognize individuals, businesses or organizations that have made a major contribution to accessibility and/or community inclusion in the areas of physical accessibility, employment opportunities, educational opportunities and other related areas.

"The Living Fit Program is the only program in southeast Alberta to offer fitness equipment programs based on individual needs," says Mayor Garth Vallely. "The program has benefited many individuals through improved health and fitness, increased self-confidence and heightened motivation to participate in the community."

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An Awards Selection Committee, made up of representatives from the City of Medicine Hat's various advisory boards of the Public Services Division, annually recommends award recipients to City Council.

The Civic Recognition Awards will be presented Wednesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome to attend.

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BACKGROUNDER: OVERVIEW OF THE 2006 CIVIC RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS AND PHOTOS.

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2006 CIVIC RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

CULTURAL: Evan Tonin



Evan Tonin has shared her gift and love of music and theatre with the residents of Medicine Hat for the past 60 years. Evan was born and raised in Medicine Hat, and has continually put her organizational and musical talents forward for the betterment of our community. She has sung for and directed a variety of choirs, including the Armstrong Singers, Shandells, and church choirs. She has been involved with the Medicine Hat Musical Theatre both as a board member for 15 years and as an active participant in many productions, both on and off stage. Most recently, she was an important part of the Gala Opening Committee for the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre. Her tireless efforts have introduced and allowed thousands to experience the world of music and theatre.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Robert Gardner



Robert Gardner has been a "champion" of Medicine Hat environmental issues for more than two decades. Rob was a founding member of the Society of Grasslands Naturalists and is actively involved with hiking and bird watching. Rob's approach to the environment is simple, it is to be enjoyed but also protected for future generations. He was instrumental in the development of the current trail system enjoyed by so many Medicine Hat residents and visitors to this day. Most recently, Rob was the driving force to have bike racks available on City Transit. Rob has shared his passion and knowledge for the prairies and all its natural wonders with many people, and his dedication and commitment to environmental conservation has enhanced the quality of life for Medicine Hat residents.

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